

President's Message – June 2011

Spring is a wonderful time of year at the University of Regina. The park surrounding the campus and our own outdoor space are budding, blooming and green once again.

It is also an exciting time because we are celebrating the accomplishments of our students at spring convocation. This year – at the 37th Annual University of Regina Spring Convocation – we will recognize nearly 1,500 students who have come from all over the world, shown great dedication to their studies and rightfully earned the privilege of receiving a University of Regina degree, certificate or diploma.

Convocation is also the time we pay tribute to some outstanding individuals. We will recognize student award winners who have achieved academic excellence upon graduation. This year, we will also recognize Dr. Stephen Bend, the recipient of the Alumni Award of Excellence in Teaching.

We also bestow honorary degrees to pay tribute to individuals who are leaders in their fields and play major roles in shaping our society. I am proud to welcome four honorary degree recipients to our University of Regina community: Architect Douglas Cardinal, who designed the First Nations University of Canada; Regina business leader and philanthropist Paul Hill; and Alanna Mitchell, one of the world's foremost environmental journalists. The University also granted an honorary degree to actor and activist Shirley Douglas at a special ceremony held in Toronto in February.

I encourage everyone to attend convocation ceremonies to cheer on your friends, family, classmates, students or colleagues as they celebrate a major accomplishment. Convocation will be held on June 8, 9, and 10, at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina, beginning at 2:00 p.m. daily.

I am also very excited to invite our newest group of alumni – and indeed all alumni – to our Centennial Alumni Homecoming Weekend scheduled for late September. This year is the 100th anniversary of the founding of Regina College – the forerunner of the University of Regina. For that reason, we are celebrating our outstanding history by hosting events throughout the year and paying tribute to all those who have contributed to the success of the University. The Centennial Alumni Homecoming Weekend is one such event.

Organizers are planning a weekend of fun from September 29-October 1. The weekend will feature a pancake breakfast, a Rams football game, opportunities for graduates to return to the classroom, the Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards Dinner, and many more fun and interesting activities organized by the faculties and the Alumni Association.

I encourage all University of Regina alumni and friends to take in this fabulous opportunity. Come reconnect with friends, colleagues and your University. For more information or to register, visit: www.uregina.ca/alumni/homecoming.

Once again, it is my pleasure to congratulate our new University of Regina graduates. Best wishes to all of you, and welcome to our ever-growing group of alumni – now 58,000 strong!

Vianne Timmons
President and Vice-Chancellor